

Paddler's Guide Iowa River Valley Water Trail



1 McCoy Landing to Manatt's Landing



The Pa-wa-ah-ka family, Meskwaki Nation, ca. 1900.

Description: This beautiful section of the river, inhabited by bald eagles, is an enjoyable paddle. The route passes through the Meskwaki Settlement, the first privately purchased Native American settlement in the nation, and near the Meskwaki Casino. Respect the Meskwaki land by keeping to the center of the river channel when possible, and please do not trespass.



Hazard: An unmarked blown-out dam located at the Meskwaki Settlement (see map) that produces rapids.

Put In: McCoy Landing is located approximately 8 miles west of Tama, Iowa and 0.8 miles north of Highway 30 on C Avenue. The 2.79 acre Landing is on the north bank, reached by a gravel drive, and has a gravel parking area and concrete ramp. This is a good fishing location.

Take Out: Manatt's Landing is a concrete ramp and a gravel parking area, west of Highway 63, on the south side of Tama.
Distance: 14.7 miles.

2 Manatt's Landing to Long Point Landing

Description: This section can be paddled in a few hours and passes through prime fishing areas. The river is wooded on both banks and very scenic; bald eagles and great blue herons may be seen here.

Put In: is the 5.3 acre Manatt's Landing, located on the south bank of the river, south of Tama, and just west of Highway 63. This is also a popular fishing spot.

Take Out: Long Point Landing is 2 miles south of Highway 30 on P Avenue. The Landing is reached by a short gravel drive, has a gravel parking area and concrete ramp, and is also a popular fishing location.
Distance: 9 miles.



Photo/Map by Dave Smith, IWRCD

The Iowa River



Explore the scenic Iowa River where a great paddling adventure awaits you! This tour of the river traverses one of the largest public land areas along a river corridor in Iowa. Rolling prairie hills, unique wildlife, including a bird conservation area, sedge meadows, ox bow wetlands, bottom land forests, and towering bluffs are just some of the natural scenery you will discover as you paddle this beautiful and historic stretch of the Iowa River.

This tour passes through the Meskwaki Settlement, Tama, Benton, Iowa and Johnson Counties and the Amana Colonies and covers over 135 miles. Average canoe paddle speed is 2 mph, plus a current speed of 1 mph when the river is at "normal level." Rate of travel ranges from 3 mph with stops, to around 4.5 mph without stops along the way.

From mid summer through late fall, water levels reveal sandbars and snags. In high water, the river moves quickly and paddlers should note obstructions like fallen trees. Keep in mind that this is only a guide, and be aware that there can be hazards and spots to put in and take out and camp not shown on the map.



- 28 Rose's Place Bed and Breakfast, 26P Ave., Amara, IA 319.622.8097 or 877.767.3293
- 29 Sudbury Court Motel and RV Park, 2211 Highway 6 Trail, Marengo, IA 319.642.5411
- 30 The Lion and the Lamb B & B, 913 2nd Ave., Vinton, IA 319.472.5086 or 888.300.5262

Information

- 31 Amara Colonies Convention and Visitor's Bureau, 622 49th Ave., Amara, IA 319.622.7822
- 32 Benton County Development Group, 303 1st Ave., Vinton, IA 319.472.5645
- 33 Iowa City/Coralville Convention and Visitor's Bureau, 900 1st Ave., Coralville, IA 319.337.6502 and 800.283.8992
- 34 Poweshiek Iowa Development, 927 4th Ave., Grinnell, IA 641.296.1628

Medical Facilities

- 35 Amara Family Practice Clinic, PC, 505 30th Ave., Amara, IA 319.622.9251
- 36 Belle Plaine Dental Office, 804 12th St., Belle Plaine, IA 319.444.3343
- 37 Marengo Memorial Hospital, 300 W. May St., Marengo, IA 319.642.5543
- 38 Marx, Mark L. DDS, 4304 220th Trail, Amara, IA 319.622.3150
- 39 Sheronick, James K. DDS, 201 1st St., Van Horn, IA 319.228.8404

Veterinary Facility

- 40 Countryside Veterinary Clinic, 3622 Highway 21, Belle Plaine, IA 319.444.3020